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HOUSE BILL 869

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007

INTRODUCED BY

Janice E. Arnold-Jones

AN ACT

RELATING TO EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS; CREATING AN EMERGENCY
OPERATIONS PREPAREDNESS AND PLANNING PROGRAM FOR SMALL
MUNICIPALITIES AND COUNTIES; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PREPAREDNESS AND PLANNING
FOR SMALL MUNICIPALITIES AND COUNTIES.--

A. The New Mexico institute of mining and
technology, in collaboration with the department of public
safety and the office of homeland security, shall develop an
emergency operations preparedness and planning program for
small municipalities and counties with a population of fifty
thousand persons or fewer. The program shall include the
development of a template for emergency response strategies to
be used in myriad crisis situations and that can be repeated

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1 and customized to work in all small communities. The program
2 shall also provide a process to enable small communities to
3 establish emergency response teams and procedures.

4 B. The institute shall assess the municipalities
5 and counties in the state with a population of fifty thousand
6 persons or fewer and shall select a municipality or county for
7 the development of the template. In developing the template,
8 the institute shall:

9 (1) bring together experts, first responders,
10 community officials and citizens to identify and index
11 scenarios, strategies and existing capabilities, assets,
12 limitations and resources of the community;

13 (2) establish an emergency operations response
14 team that would maintain, update and review, at least
15 semiannually, the emergency response strategies for the
16 community and that would implement the appropriate strategies
17 in response to a crisis situation;

18 (3) conduct exercises to test the
19 effectiveness of strategies developed to meet various emergency
20 scenarios and evaluate and improve those strategies as needed;

21 (4) develop a training and exercise manual to
22 guide a small community in its emergency planning and response
23 process; and

24 (5) develop plans and methods to hasten
25 economic recovery in the event of an emergency.

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1 C. After development of the template pursuant to
2 Subsection B of this section, the institute shall validate the
3 template on other municipalities and counties with a population
4 of fifty thousand persons or fewer and shall customize,
5 evaluate and improve the template as necessary.

6 D. The institute shall provide an interim report no
7 later than November 2008 and a final report no later than
8 September 2009, to the appropriate interim legislative
9 committee on the emergency response and strategy template
10 developed, the activities conducted and information obtained.

11 Section 2. APPROPRIATION.--Three million dollars
12 (\$3,000,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the board
13 of regents of New Mexico institute of mining and technology for
14 expenditure in fiscal years 2008 and 2009 for the emergency
15 operations preparedness and planning program for small
16 municipalities and counties with a population of fifty thousand
17 persons or fewer, including the development and testing of a
18 template that can be repeated and customized to work in all
19 small communities. No more than five hundred thousand dollars
20 (\$500,000) of the money appropriated shall be used to defray
21 the expense of conducting exercises in the development of the
22 template. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at
23 the end of fiscal year 2009 shall revert to the general fund.